



# Civil Rights and Voting in Illinois

**Hosted By:**

The Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

**Date:**

Thursday March 9, 2017

**Time:**

8:00am—5:00pm

**Location:**

Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building, 3rd Floor

77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604

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**U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

Midwestern Regional Office  
55 West Monroe  
Suite 410  
Chicago IL, 60603

Phone: 312-353-8311  
Fax: 312-353-8324  
Online: [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov)  
Twitter: @USCCRGov

The Illinois Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights is hosting a public meeting to hear testimony regarding civil rights concerns related to voting rights in the State. This meeting is free and open to the public.

- *Opening Remarks and Introductions (8:00am-8:15am)*
  - *Panel 1: Legal and Academic Research on Voting Rights (8:15am-9:30am)*
  - *Panel 2: Voting and Incarceration (9:45am-11:00am)*
  - *Panel 3: Language Access (11:15am-12:30pm)*
- *Break (12:30pm-1:30pm)*
  - *Panel 4: Voting Across Social Groups (1:30pm-2:45pm)*
  - *Panel 5: Government Perspectives (3:00pm-4:15pm)*
  - *Open Forum (4:15pm-5:00pm)*
- *Closing Remarks (5:00pm)*

The Committee will hear public testimony during the open forum session, as time allows. Please arrive early if you wish to speak. The record is also open for written testimony and will remain so for thirty days following the hearing. For more information please contact the Midwestern Regional Office of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

# Agenda

## Opening Remarks and Introductions (8:00-8:15am)

Juan Carlos Linares, Chair, Illinois Advisory Committee  
Mauro Morales, Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

## Legal and Academic Research on Voting Rights (8:15am –9:30pm)

Ruth Greenwood, Campaign Legal Center  
Ami Gandhi, Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.  
Jacob H. Huebert, Liberty Justice Center  
Rebecca Glenberg, American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois

## Voting and Incarceration (9:45am-11:00am)

Christina R. Rivers, DePaul University Political Science Department  
Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
Cara Smith, Office of the Cook County Sheriff  
Nasir Blackwell, Inner-City Muslim Action Network  
Marlon Chamberlain, Community Renewal Society

## Language Access (11:15am-12:30pm)

Ryan Cortazar, Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.  
Shobhana Verma, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners  
Verónica Cortez, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Andy Kang, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

## Break (12:30pm-1:30pm)

## Voting Across Social Groups (1:30pm-2:45pm)

Cheryl Jansen, Equip for Equality  
Sharon Legenza, Housing Action Illinois  
Christian Diaz, Chicago Votes  
Juan Thomas, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
Mary H. Schaafsma, League of Women Voters of Illinois

## Government Perspectives (3:00pm-4:15pm)

Brent Davis, Illinois State Board of Elections  
David Orr, Cook County Clerk  
Karyn Bass Ehler, Civil Rights Bureau, Office of the Illinois Attorney General  
Representative, Illinois Secretary of State (*tentative*)

## Open Forum (4:15pm-5:00pm)

## Closing Remarks (5:00pm)